NOTE XXVII.

ON ZONOPTERUS FLAVITARSIS, HOPE.

BY

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After a careful examination of not less than 14 representatives of the genus *Zonopterus* to which Hope's description of *flavitarsis* 1) is applicable, I hesitate to decide whether this is a very variable species as regards the form of certain parts of the body, or that there are several species so closely allied to one another that, without extensive series, it will prove to be impossible to define the specific characteristics in a manner sufficient enough to allow future identification from the descriptions only.

Of the 14 specimens now before me 9 are males, 5 females, and, without exception, the former have the abdomen red, the latter blue. I therefore believe the difference in colour of the abdomen to be of sexual value 2).

The parts of the body in which I observe differences in shape (the sculpture, on the contrary, appears to be very constant) are: the interantennary ridge, the antennae, the prothorax, the scutellum and the intercoxal parts of the pro- and mesosternum, and in the male moreover the 5th and 6th ventral segments.

As to the coloration the antennae have constantly the 4 basal joints and the base of the 5th black (the tip of the 4th, sometimes also that of the 3rd, marked on the outside with a luteous spot), but the shape of the two luteous elytral bands is very variable.

The 9 male specimens vary, in length from 21,5—33 mm., the 5 female specimens from 31—35 mm.

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1) Trans. Linn. Soc. London. XIX (1843). p. 111; pl. 10, fig. 7.

2) This, most probably, will likewise prove to be the case with *Zonopterus consanguineus* Rits. (Notes Leyd. Mus. 1889. p. 10) of which I have seen four females with a blue and one male with a red abdomen.